

cliff-top just to the south of the small resort of Kiten. The habitat was unexceptional, flowery grassland with some scrub, and the butterflies seemed to be confined to a remarkably small area. As I made this discovery at the end of my holiday, I was not able to investigate further south along the coast, but I would suggest that this might reveal further populations. Other *Melitaeinae* present in the vicinity were *M. cinxia* (L), *M. phoebe* (D&S), *M. didyma* (Esper), *M. trivialis* (D&S) and *Euphydryas aurinia* (Rottemburg).

Owing to an over enthusiastic use of the semicolon, Tolman (1997. *Collins Field Guide – Butterflies of Britain and Europe*. HarperCollins.) gives the impression of five distinct localities for *M. arduinna*, but Sbornyanovo is a locality in the Ludogorie region of Bulgaria and Kula is the nearest town to the Vrashka Chuka (or Vrushka Tchuka) locality, so in reality he names only the same three sites mentioned by Abadjiev (*op.cit.*). Tolman gives the altitudinal range of the species as 500-1500m, but both the Kiten and Burgas colonies are or were at sea-level.

I am indebted to Stanislav Abadjiev for suggesting the publication of this record after viewing a photograph I took of one of the *M. arduinna*.— MICHAEL J. SKELTON, 42 Grosvenor Gardens, Bournemouth BH1 4HH.

### ***Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* (Stt.) (Lep:Gracillariidae) – a first description of the larva**

On 27 March 2005, I examined a gorse *Ulex europaeus* bush on the edge of a small copse close to my house at Fleet, Hampshire and found a mine of *P. ulicicolella* in the bark, near to the shoot tip. The mine extended some 15 mm in length from the base of the spine towards the tip. It can be seen (Fig. 1) that the upper end of the mine is relatively clear; the discolouration of the bottom of the mine is due to frass accumulation. There is also a 'window' effect (seen at the top of the mine) where the larva has eaten through to the outer epidermis in places.

Discussion with other lepidopterists suggests that the mine is, evidently, rarely seen and as far as I am able to ascertain the larva is undescribed in the British entomological literature. The opportunity is therefore taken to plug that gap.

The fully fed larva (Fig. 2) is 3 mm long, almost transparent and a pale lemon colour in life and the thoracic legs have pale black rings. It has the typical *Phyllonorycter* head structure (Figs 2 and 3), light brown, with darker edges, but few distinguishing features on its body. The gut can be seen through the body wall. When the specimen was preserved in isopropyl alcohol it lost its colour.

I hope that this note will encourage others to search for this rarely seen miner. Care must be taken in identification as the spines of Gorse may show browning, which could lead to incorrect determinations. Look particularly for the discolouration of the spine, with a clear area towards the tip. I am grateful to Dr. Willem Ellis (Amsterdam) for his help in photographing the larva.— ROB EDMUNDS, 32 Woodcote Green, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 4EY (E-mail: r.edmunds@ntlworld.com).

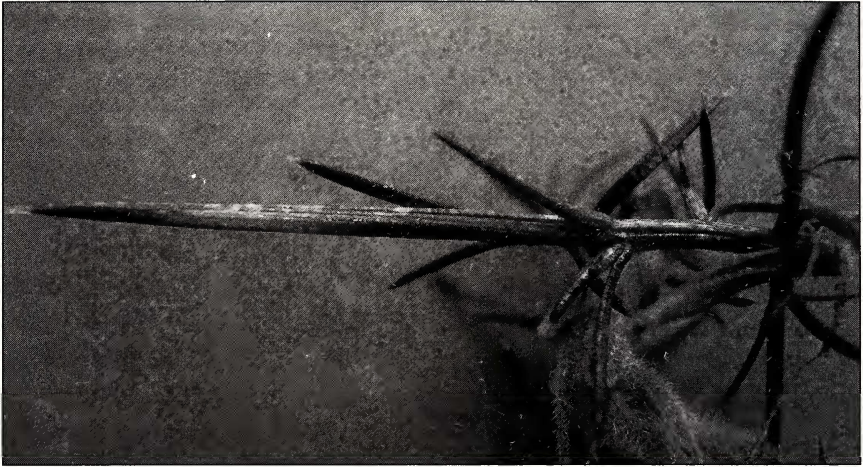


Fig. 1. Larval mine of *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella*.



Fig. 2. Final instar of *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* (ventral).



Fig. 3. *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* head capsule (dorsal).



Fig. 4. *Phyllonorycter ulicicolella* head and thoracic region (ventral)